

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



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Idaho Vehicle Dealer Sentenced for Sales Tax Theft, Filing False Returns

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 15, 2003— A former Coeur d'Alene vehicle dealer charged with participating in an odometer-rollback ring was sentenced today for stealing more than \$62,000 in sales taxes and filing false or fraudulent tax returns.

Spokane County Superior Judge Gregory D. Sypolt sentenced Milton J. Friedley III to five months in jail and ordered him to make \$62,206 in restitution to the state Department of Revenue.

Friedley, who now lives in Bothell, will spend two months of his sentence in the King County Jail, two months on work release, and one month doing community service.

Friedley, 56, was charged last October with selling nearly 50 vehicles to Spokane-area residents, collecting sales tax on those transactions, but failing to turn those funds over to the state of Washington.

Friedley still faces federal fraud charges as the seller of vehicles provided by a ring that imported them from Canada, rolled back the odometers by up to 50,000 miles during a kilometers-to-miles instrument panel conversion, and resold them to unsuspecting buyers.

Most of the 122 vehicles sold in Washington and Idaho were "high-end" trucks and sports utility vehicles. Rolling back the mileage allowed the ring to receive a higher than normal profit from the sale.

The Financial Crimes Unit of the Attorney General's Office handled the case for the Department of Revenue. Its principal investigator is Darryl Roosendaal.

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